

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A communications method, comprising:  
establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~;  
recipient, wherein establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender  
and the recipient includes:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient,  
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and  
the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user  
interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant  
messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and  
send text instant messages to the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and  
the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant  
messaging, and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video  
instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant  
messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant  
messaging; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the  
recipient;

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;  
storing the video instant message on behalf of the sender;  
after generation of the video instant message is complete, receiving an indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and  
in response to receiving the indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

37-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently amended) A communications method, comprising:  
establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~;  
recipient, wherein establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient,  
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:  
establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

49-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~; recipient, wherein the instructions for establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient include instructions for:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the sender; and  
after generation of the video instant message is complete, receiving an indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and  
in response to receiving the indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session.

57-63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) A computer program, stored on a computer readable medium, comprising instructions for:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~; recipient, the instructions for establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient including instructions for:

initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient,  
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

during the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient:

establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

receiving, on behalf of the recipient, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

storing the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

accessing the stored video instant message; and

enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient.

65-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

means for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~; recipient, wherein the means for establishing a presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

means for initiating a text instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient,

means for enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,

means for determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, and

means for enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging; and

means for establishing, during the presence-based communications session, a video communications session between the sender and the recipient;

means for generating, during the presence-based communications session, a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for storing, during the presence-based communications session, the video instant message on behalf of the sender;

means for receiving, during the instant messaging communications session and after generation of the video instant message is complete, an indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient; and

means for initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session in response to receiving the indication to trigger sending of the video instant message to the recipient.

69. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

means for establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a recipient through an instant messaging ~~host~~; host, wherein the means for establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

means for initiating a text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient,

means for enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, the instant messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and send text instant messages to the recipient,

means for determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and the recipient, and

means for enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging;

means for establishing a video communication session between the sender and the recipient;

means for receiving, during the presence-based communications session, a completed video instant message sent by the sender using the video communications session;

means for storing, during the presence-based communications session, the video instant message on behalf of the recipient;

means for accessing, during the presence-based communications session, the stored video instant message; and

means for enabling presentation of the video instant message to the recipient during the presence-based communications session.

70-81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently amended) A communications method, comprising:

establishing a presence-based communications session between a sender and a ~~recipient~~; recipient, wherein establishing the presence-based communications session between the sender and the recipient includes:

initiating a text instant messaging session between a sender and a recipient,  
in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and  
the recipient, enabling display, to the sender, of an instant messaging graphical user  
interface associated with the initiated text instant messaging session, the instant  
messaging graphical user interface being configured to enable the sender to compose and  
send text instant messages to the recipient,

in response to initiating the text instant messaging session between the sender and  
the recipient, determining if the recipient is capable of participating in video instant  
messaging, and

based on a determination that the recipient is capable of participating in video  
instant messaging, enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant  
messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant  
messaging;

during the presence-based communications session, receiving, from the sender, a request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications ~~session~~; session, wherein receiving the request to establish the video communications session between the sender and the recipient includes receiving the request to establish the video communications session between the sender and the recipient after enabling the graphical user interface associated with the instant messaging session to reflect that the recipient is capable of participating in video instant messaging;

in response to receiving the request to establish a video communications session between the sender and the recipient, establishing a video communications session between the sender and the recipient that is concurrent with the presence-based communications session; and

during the concurrent presence-based and video communications sessions between the sender and the recipient:

generating a video instant message on behalf of the sender;

receiving an instruction from the sender to send the video instant message to the recipient after generation of the video instant message is complete;

in response to receiving the instruction to send the video instant message to the recipient, initiating a transfer of the video instant message to the recipient using the video communications session;

receiving a non-video message from the sender intended for the recipient; and

initiating a transmission of the non-video message from the sender to the recipient using the presence-based communications session.

83-97. (Canceled)